



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

UPMC Shadyside

5230 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-623-2121

Mr. Marc P. Volavka, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka,

We are writing regarding the publication of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's report on Hospital Performance for the Year 2001. The data from the report was reviewed. Of the conditions reported on, UPMC Shadyside was within the expected mortality rates for all but two conditions.

At UPMC Shadyside, we complete a 100% mortality review. Each patient who expires at our hospital has their chart reviewed by a nurse member of our Informatics/Quality Management department. The findings are taken to the Medical/Surgical department chair when warranted. This data and specific cases are reviewed quarterly at the Informatics/Quality Management Committee meeting.

The Length of Stay data in your report also indicates that our patients do leave the hospital within the expected time frame in most cases. During our analysis, we have found that in several of the DRG's that our patients actual LOS is less than the Atlas expected LOS. The LOS appears higher due to a few patients that had high outlier days in this group.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for providing this vital information to Pennsylvania health care providers as well as the public that we serve.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tami E. Merryman".

Tami E. Merryman, RN, MS, FACHE
VP of Patient Care Services
UPMC Shadyside